

sets divided by said first data dividing unit, and calculates a sum of the degrees of randomness; and

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a first classification unit which is electrically connected to the first degree-of-randomness calculation unit and classifies said group of data into said data belonging to the respective classification sets of said first number of classification sets in which said sum of degrees of randomness calculated by said first degree-of-randomness calculation unit is minimum out of forms of data division by said first data dividing unit.

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#### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to correct for an informality in Claim 66 presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed June 21, 2001, by clarifying certain connections therein.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 66 as follows:

--66. (Amended) A data classification apparatus for classifying a group of data into a plurality of sets in accordance with data values, comprising:

a first data dividing unit which divides said group of data into a first number of sets having no common elements; and

a first degree-of-randomness calculation unit which is electrically connected to the first data dividing unit and calculates degrees of randomness of data values in the respective sets divided by said first data dividing unit, and calculates a sum of the degrees of randomness; and

a first classification unit which is electrically connected to the first degree-of-randomness calculation unit and classifies said group of data into said data belonging to the respective classification sets of said first number of classification sets in which said sum of degrees of randomness calculated by said first degree-of-randomness calculation unit is minimum out of forms of data division by said first data dividing unit.--